CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE WRITINGS OF ZADIE SMITH: A CRITICAL EXAMINATION

INTRODUCTION:

Sensibility or intuition has long been regarded as an important element of the creative process. It is referred to in the literature on creativity research but not examined in detail with reference to its qualities and characteristics. There is very less research has been done regarding creative sensibility in literature, which results in fragmented and incomplete understanding of the subject. My research addresses this unsatisfactory situation and clear understanding of author's sensibility to know the work properly. It is very broad and expansive way of knowing the world. It is usual way of understanding world through intellect.

When we examine the whole history of English literature, we find that writers of different age have different perspectives or sensibility. And also, same age writers saw, think and write of something with different perspectives. The way of writing of works of literature is different not only in the background, narrative structure, form, characterization and diction but also the way writers think which is called sensibility or perception of the writer. So, understanding perception of the writer plays very important role in complete understanding of work or literature. Zadie Smith, a well-known contemporary British creative writer, novelist, essayist and short story writer. Some of her works are taken for critical examination to deal with her creative sensibility expressed in her works which has not been undertaken in the academic research, such an attempt is proposed in my research leading to PhD.

AIM OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH:

Zadie Smith is an English novelist, essayist, playwright and short-story writer. She is the professor in the creative writings in New York University. She is born in North London to Englishman father and Jamaican mother. She married to a North Irish novelist and poet Nick Liard. She has two children. To her, books are one of the basic needs of life like food, water and air. She breaths it as she says, she inhales the books. She is specially known for her treatment of race, class, gender, religion, cultural identity, peculiar characters, shrewd humour, witty dialogues etc. She received many prestigious awards. She has been regarded as the 'voice of a new England.' Her important novels and play are,

1) ***WHITE TEETH***

2) ***THE AUTOGRAPH MAN***

3) ***ON BEAUTY***

4) ***NW***

5) ***SWING TIME***

6) ***THE FRAUD and***

7) ***THE WIFE OF WILLESDEN-*** a play.

The aim of the proposed study is to find out creative sensibility of the writer Zadie Smith by close reading and critical analyzation of her works. As each novel has so many themes and elements, my proposed research tries to explain whether she is in favour of it or against to it and to find out how her sensibility evolved through her works over period of time.

PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDY:

i. Contemporary British Writers

ii. Status of my Author

iii. Diasporic Elements and Characterization

iv. Author's Creative Sensibility

PROVISIONAL CHAPTERIZATION INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW:

In this chapter, 20 articles are reviewed related to research title. So far while reviewing the articles there is no such topic on Zadie Smith writings. Therefore, this is new and advanced topic in the field of research.

CHAPTER 2: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *WHITE TEETH*.

1. INTRODUCTION: *White Teeth* is debut novel of Zadie Smith which gave her lots of name and fame. It was written at the age 25 when she was pursuing her degree. Major themes of this novel is multiculturalism, identity crisis, race, religion, rootlessness, alienation, otherness, struggle to make sense of rapidly changing modern world. As she herself born and brought up in multicultural London and being a child of mixed-race child, personally she has faced the difficult experiences of changing culture of the city of London and she expresses them through her characters. Though novel is not autobiographical but has mentioned some autobiographical elements in the novel. The main aim of this chapter is to discuss author's creative sensibility with reference to its themes and characters.

2. PLOT: Plot of the novel revolves around two families of different culture and ethnicity. Plot of the novel set in the North London neighbourhood of Willesden. They are Jones family and Iqbals family. Samad Iqbal, Archie Jones, Clara, Alsana (First generation Immigrants) and Millat, Magid, and Irie Jones (second generation Immigrants). Novel discusses of problems faced by them in multicultural London. Through these characters and the title of the novel, she focuses themes like immigration, assimilation, multiculturalism, colonialism, racism, feminism, domestic violence and genetic engineering etc. It also focuses on Britain's relationship with immigrants.

3. The novel can be discussed from the following aspects:

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary theories/diasporic elements

vii. Author's sensibility

4. CONCLUSION: the study in part 3 is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

CHAPTER 3: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *THE AUTOGRAPH MAN*.

1. INTRODUCTION: This is second novel by Zadie Smith. This also focuses on celebrity obsession, religion, search for identity, authenticity, meaning of life, cultural identity, celebrity culture etc. smith critics on modern society and conveys how celebrity culture, consumerism, fleeting nature of fame, autograph collection is influencing the younger generation and criticizes public fascination with celebrities and how it is influencing their identity. The main objectives of this chapter are to analyse how Smith has expressed her creative sensibility in this work and whether she is in favour or against to it.

2. PLOT: the plot of the novel revolves around twelve years old Alex Li-Tandem, a Chinese Jewish autograph trader. His business was to collecting and selling autographs. His inability to face the death of his father and escaping reality by collecting autographs who had a desire to meet famous Hollywood actress Kitty Alexander and get her autograph. It deals with hollow trapping of Modernity. Novel focuses on protagonists search for authenticity, identity and meaning of life.

3. The novel can be discussed from following aspects:

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary theories/ Diasporic elements

vii. Author's sensibility

4. CONCLUSION: The study in part 3 is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

CHAPER 4: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *ON BEAUTY*

1. INTRODUCTION: Smith's third novel *On Beauty* was published in September 2005. It is set largely around Greater Boston.This famous novel of Smith short listed for the Man Booker Prize, and won 2006 orange prize for fiction. It is written in tribute to Foster's *Howard's End.* Issue of Black identity is the main theme of the novel. Notion of blackness is discussed variously with different opinion of different characters. It is brilliant analysis of family life, the institution of marriage, race, friendship, gender discrimination etc. We find many symbolic elements related to themes through out the novels. Main objective of this chapter is to discuss the creative sensibility of the writer with reference to her themes.

2. PLOT: Plot of the novel revolves around story of lives two mixed race families Belsey family and Kipps family and their different lives in fictional town Wellington and Massachusetts just outside Boston. Novel explores the clash between liberal and conservative values between these two families with in academic setting.

3. The novel can be discussed from following perspectives,

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary theories/ Diasporic elements

vii. Author's sensibility

4. CONCLUSION: The study in part 3n is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analyses.

CHAPTER 5: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *NW*

1.INTRODUCTION: *NW* is Smith's fourth novel. It's title taken from postcode of northwest London. Novel explores the modern life in urban London. It deals with themes like class system, race, identity, friendship and it's relationship, social mobility, urban living, multiculturalism etc. Novel is mainly modernist and post-modernist perspective. Main objective of this chapter is to discuss creative sensibility of the authors with reference to its themes.

2. PLOT: Plot of the novel set in the northwest of London. It revolves around four main character Leah Hanwell, Natalie Blake, Felix Cooper, and Natan Bogle who grew up and lives in the NW neighbourhood of London. Novel has several characters of different Nationalities and it discusses their struggle for self-identity and struggle to lead confront able life in western, white dominated and multicultural London.

3. The novel can be discussed from following aspects,

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary Theories /Diasporic elements

vii. Authors sensibility

CONCLUSION: the study in part 3 is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

CHAPTER 6: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *SWING TIME*.

1. INTRODUCTION: It is Smith's fifth novel written on 2016. Novels shows smith's childhood love for tap dancing. It deals with the themes like friendship, parent-child relationship, single motherhood, puberty, poverty, wealth, materialism and fame. It is story about friendship, music, cultural heritage, family roots, and about how we are shaped by these things and how we can survive them. Themes are seen through personal and artistic ambition. The main objective of this chapter is to explore creative sensibility of the writer discussed in the novel with reference to its themes.

2. PLOT: plot of the novel is set in London,New York and West Africa. Novel focuses on two colored girls- an unnamed narrator and her childhood friend Tracey who can tap dance, thus by giving hint of Smith Childhood love of tap dancing. One has Talent ; the other has ideas about black music, black bodies, about rhythm and time. Smith explores issues of class, race while chronicling two childhood friends who both aspire to be dancer but whose lives take dramatically different turns.

3. The novel can be discussed from following aspects:

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and Techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary Theories / Diasporic elements

vii. Author's Sensibility

4. CONCLUSION: the study in part 3 is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

5. **CHAPTER 7: CREATIVE SENSIBILITY IN THE NOVEL *THE FRAUD.***

1. INTRODUCTION: This the first historical novel written by Smith in 2023. In this novel Smith gives a clear picture of London and Jamaica two hundred years ago. It is based on real historical events. It is fictionalized account of real life legal battle of 1870 tichborne court case of Victorian England. Through this she shows how in his world of hypocrisy and self-deception, deciding what's true a complicated task.

2. PLOT: plot of the novel is set in Britain and Jamaica. It revolves around the three main story lines: the story of the Eliza Touchet , a widow and writer William Ainsworth; Andrew Bogle. It is beautiful novel about truth and fiction, Jamaica and Britain, Fraudulence and authenticity etc.

3. The novel can be discussed from following aspects.

i. City

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary theories/ Diasporic elements

vii. Author's Sensibility

4. CONCLUSION: The Study in part 3 summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

CHAPTER 8- CREATIVE SENSIBILITY OF ZADIE SMITH IN HER PLAY *THE WIFE OF WILLESDON*

1.INTRODUCTION:

Zadie smith's debt play The Wife of Willesden is a modern and theatrical adaptation, critical reinterpretation of Geoffrey Chaucer's tale The Wife of Bath from *Canterbury Tales*. Set in contemporary, 21st century, multicultural north west London Smith expands the original critique of patriarchy and highlights the issues of identity, class, race, gender through the voice of protagonist called Alvita, a Jamaican- born British women in her mid- 50s. It also explores the themes like female empowerment, misogyny, marriage, sexual autonomy, right to self-definition, community etc. centring on black women's voice challenges the traditional notion of Englishness and cultural authority. Relocating the story from medieval England to 18th century Jamaica focuses story in the context of realities like colonialism, slavery and racial oppression that were absent from medieval English setting. This transformation brings modern and racially nuanced perspective to a classical tale which was originally all white, patriarchal and in medieval context.

2. PLOT: plot of the play revolves around the character called Alvita, a Jamaican born British woman in her mid-50's. like wife of bath's protagonist Alvita had five husbands. She tells her life story to group of strangers in a pub. She openly discusses about her relationships, mistakes, desires, and the lessons she learned from each marriage. It is story-with-in story. Alvita takes us back to colonial Jamaica during 1720s Maroon era. A young Maroon soldier commits a grave offence against a woman. Queen Nanny, as a punishment, sends him to what women most desire. After far wide searches an old woman Obeah offers a correct answer in exchange of promise to marry her. Soldier is saved and as a promise he marries the old woman.

3. The play can be discussed from the following aspects:

i. City/century

ii. Background

iii. Form/genre

iv. Themes and techniques

v. Characterization

vi. Literary theories

vii. Author’s perspectives.

5. CONCLUSION: the study in part 3 is summed up with an inference drawn on the basis of the analysis.

CONCLUSION: In this part the whole summary and chapterization of the thesis is discussed with reference to the title of the research.